



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Michael P. Nolin
Commissioner

December 6, 2005

LETTER OF DEFICIENCY #WSEB 05-178
Certified Mail #7099 3400 0003 0690 9335

Robert Wormer
Monroe Water Department
PO Box 63
Monroe NH 03771

Subject: Monroe - Public Water System: Monroe Water Department (EPA #1591010)

Dear Mr. Wormer:

The records of the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) indicate that Monroe Water Department is classified as a public water system (PWS), as defined by RSA 485:1-a. A PWS is defined as any water system supplying 15 or more services, or 25 or more people for 60 or more days per year. As such, the water system owner is required to submit samples according to the system's established Master Sampling Schedule to the State laboratory or a State-certified laboratory in compliance with NH Administrative Rules Env-Ws 326.

DES records indicate that Monroe Water has **exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Nitrate of 10.0 mg/L**, as defined in Env-Ws 316.01. The Q4-2005 Nitrate sample result for site "501 DEP - Tap at Pumphouse (Source 001)" was determined to be 11.6 mg/L; therefore, a violation has occurred for site 501. Based on written assurance from your system's operator that Source 001 has not been on-line for several years, DES has waived the public notice requirement for this violation.

Monroe Water Department has a history of chronic Nitrate problems. Previous Nitrate MCL violations have occurred in 1997 and 2004. Beginning in early 1998, Monroe has been required to take two Nitrate samples per week using its own testing equipment, and to fax the results to DES each week. (Monroe has not consistently faxed these results weekly.) In addition, Monroe was required to submit quarterly Nitrate samples to a certified laboratory. A review of all the Nitrate results show that Monroe's test results often differ significantly from the State Laboratory's results on samples collected the same day, or a day or two apart.

Based upon the inconsistency of the test results taken by Monroe, DES will no longer request Monroe to take its own bi-weekly Nitrate samples. Instead, DES is requiring the water system to submit a **monthly** Nitrate sample to a NH certified laboratory.

Pursuant to Env-Ws 372.11(b), a small community water system with more than 30 service connections is required to have a minimum of (2) well sources. Therefore, the water quality of both of Monroe wells must be in compliance with Env-Ws 310, "*Drinking Water Quality Standards*." Nitrate is an acute contaminant, with the potential to cause immediate harm to

infants up to six months of age. Monroe has incurred previous Nitrate MCL violations in 1997 and 2004.

DES believes the MCL violations can be corrected and future violations prevented by taking the following actions:

1. **DES has revised your Master Sampling Schedule to require that monthly Nitrate samples be taken and analyzed by a NH certified laboratory (a list is available at www.des.state.nh.us/asp/NHELAP/lablist.asp). A sample result that exceeds 10.0 mg/L must be reported to DES within 24 hours of learning of the exceedance, and public notice must be provided to all consumers within 24 hours.**
2. **By December 16, 2005**, submit to DES a copy of the consultant's report done by Horizon Engineering. The consultant's report should contain the consultant's evaluation of feasible options, cost estimates, identification and justification of which option the owner has selected to implement, along with a timeline and final correction date to resolve the MCL violation(s). A maintenance schedule must be included if treatment is proposed. DES will approve the consultant's report, in writing, and specify the next submission deadline. A consultant's report determined to lack comprehensiveness will not be approved; and
3. **By the submission date established by DES** in the above-mentioned approval letter, submit to DES all engineering/technical documents for the design of the selected option. DES must review and approve, in writing, any engineering/technical documents prior to the commencement of any work on the system. Note that engineering plans for systems serving more than 50 service connections or 20,000 gpd must be stamped by a professional engineer. Please include a plan, with a proposed time schedule for obtaining the necessary funding, and;
4. **By the DES-approved correction date**, take the corrective action as approved by DES. Notify DES in writing upon completion of the action(s) taken; and
5. **Continue to sample in accordance with your Master Sampling Schedule** (copy enclosed). Please note that your Master Sampling Schedule has been revised to include **Monthly** sampling for Nitrate.

In the event compliance is not achieved within this period, DES may initiate formal action against you, including issuing an order requiring the deficiencies to be corrected, initiating an administrative fine proceeding, and/or referring the matter to the NH Department of Justice for imposition of appropriate penalties.


**All information as requested above should be addressed as follows
or faxed to (603) 271-5171:**

Allyson Gourley
Department of Environmental Services
Water Supply Engineering Bureau
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

For your information, fact sheets on Nitrate are available at: <http://www.des.state.nh.us/ws.htm>. These include general information, health effects and removal options. Also enclosed is a summary of the expected content of consultant report submittals for your review. Please be reminded that proposed treatment alternatives should take into consideration all water quality parameters as well as current and future quantity needs.

In addition to your operator, assistance may be available to you through a variety of sources. DES staff member Rick Skarinka, P.E., may be able to answer questions concerning treatment for Nitrate. He may be reached at (603) 271-2948 or via email at rskarinka@des.state.nh.us. Also, financial, managerial and technical assistance is available through either of two government funded technical assistance providers. These are Granite State Rural Water Association ((603) 753-4055) and RCAP Solutions, Inc. (1-800-488-1969). Health related questions may be directed to Dave Gordon of the DES Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health whose number is (603) 271-4608. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Allyson Gourley at (603) 271-0655 or by email at agourley@des.state.nh.us.

Sincerely,


COPY
Sarah Pillsbury, P.G., Administrator
Water Supply Engineering Bureau

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Encl Master Sampling Schedule
Report submittal information sheet

cc w/ encl(s): Paul Gibson, Primary Operator

cc: Gretchen R. Hamel, DES Legal Unit Administrator
Gayle Wormer, Monroe Health Officer
EPA, Region 1
File

cc: Rick Skarinka, P.E., DES
Dave Gordon, DES BEOH
Jack Shields, GSRWA
Robert Morancy, RCAP Solutions, Inc.